(b) 8.77 lakh bales of cotton were exported during the 1988-89 cotton season.

Appointment of SC/ST Directors in the Public Sector undertakings

966. SHRI ANAND PRAKASH GAUTAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many Executive Directors and other Directors are on the Board of S.T.C., M.M.T.C., P.E.C. and H.H.E.C. at present;

(b) how many of them belong to the scheduled Castes and Tribes respectively; and

(c) if there are no SC/ST directors in the above mentioned undertaking what steps Government propose to take to appoint at least one Executive Director belonging to SC/ST on each of the boards of the above undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN): (a) Details of full-time and part-time Directors on the Boards of STC, MMTC, PEC and HHEC at present are as under:—

	STC	MMTC	PEC	HHEC
Full time	4	6	3	1
Part time	5	5	3	8

(b) **None.**

(c) For appointment of full-time Directors on the Boards of PSUs, the finalisation of panel of names is done by Public Enterprises Selection Board. At the time of making selections, PESB also considers eligible candidates belonging to SC and ST.

As regards part-time ex-officio Directors, such appointments are made by nominating only the officers dealing with the concerned subject.

utstanding Loans Advanced by Nationalised Banks to Cotton Growers of Andhra Pradesh

967. Dr. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of outstanding loans advanced by the nationalised banks to the cotton growers in Guntur and Prakasam districts of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether any representations were received from the distressed cotton growers for debt relief; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and action taken by Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that their data reporting system does not generate the information in the manner asked for.

(b) and (c) Government and Reserve Bank of India have been receiving various representations for providing relief to the cotton growers in Prakasam and Guntur districts of Andhra Pradesh. Government of India appointed a High Power Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. P. D. Ojha, Deputy Governor of RBI to look into the problems of cotton growers in these two districts. Based on the recommendations of the High Power Committee RBI had issued instructions in June 1988 to scheduled commercial banks for providing relief to cotton growers in Prakasam and Guntur districts of Andhra Pradesh Important relief measures recommended are:

(i) The banks as a special case, should defer recovery of principal as well as interest from the affected farmers for a period of two years